

Columbus Police Department 2022 Annual Report



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Mission

To Protect and Serve: Our goal is to continue building the community's confidence and trust in our department, and ensure that we are always providing the professional public safety services the citizens and visitors of Columbus expect and deserve.

Vision

We strive to ensure the safety and well-being of our community by evaluating and improving our services through ongoing quality performance reviews that gauge our current practices to strategies that adhere to the internationally recognized best practices for law enforcement. We practice fair and impartial enforcement of the law that is responsive to citizen needs and are committed to providing professional service that protects lives, property and personal liberties, while developing community partnerships and welcoming the diversity of our citizens.





Core Values

- We have:
 - Integrity – We are honest and have strong moral principles
 - Duty – We have obligations beyond our moral and legal responsibilities
 - Honor – We are fair and uphold the responsibilities of the position in which we are entrusted
- We are:
 - Loyal – We are faithful to and fulfill our commitments, obligations and duties
 - Responsible – We are accountable for that which is in our power, control, and management
 - Service Oriented – We are helpful
- We do all this with:
 - Excellence – We surpass ordinary standards
 - Respect – We treat all people with high regard
 - Equality – We treat all people the same

Knowing that professionalism and transparency in law enforcement activities is at the forefront of the citizens we serve, we worked hard, making a conscious effort, to demonstrate to our community that we operate according to our Mission, Vision and Core Values.

Major Activities

- International and State Accreditation
 - The Columbus Police Department maintains dual accreditation. We have been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since November of 2014, achieved reaccreditation in November of 2017, and received our third consecutive accreditation in November of 2021.
 - CALEA establishes the internationally recognized best practices for all areas of law enforcement, and provides impartial and objective third party oversight to ensure law enforcement agencies both establish and practice those standards. The standards are developed in collaboration with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriff's Association, and the Police Executive Research Forum.
 - The Columbus Police Department has also been accredited at the state level since 2015 by the Indiana Law Enforcement Accreditation commission (ILEAC).
- Community Police Review Board
 - The desire of the Community Police Review Board that has been in existence since 1992 is to foster transparency in policing, gain community trust and respond to the needs of all residents, while reflecting our community's racial, ethnic and religious diversities. This Board serves as a third party oversight of formal complaints against the department, which ensures that the police department is appropriately handling citizen complaints.
 - The formal complaint process was highly publicized and promoted throughout the year. In 2022, the police department responded to 54,126 calls for service and received nine formal complaints.



- Body-Worn Camera Program

- The Columbus Police Department has outfitted all uniformed officers with body-worn cameras since 2015.
- The data research on this technology shows that use of body-worn cameras promotes transparency, reduces citizen complaints and incidents of resistance, and is also valuable for evidentiary purposes as well as an impartial eyewitness.
- CPD's second generation body cameras are scheduled to be upgraded in 2023.





- Officer Recruitment & Retention

- We recognize that the quality of law enforcement personnel is crucial to public safety services, and it is necessary for our police department to attract and retain the best and brightest law enforcement talent. Law enforcement executives nationally list the most challenging issue facing their respective agencies as being recruiting and retaining sworn personnel, and our agency is no exception.

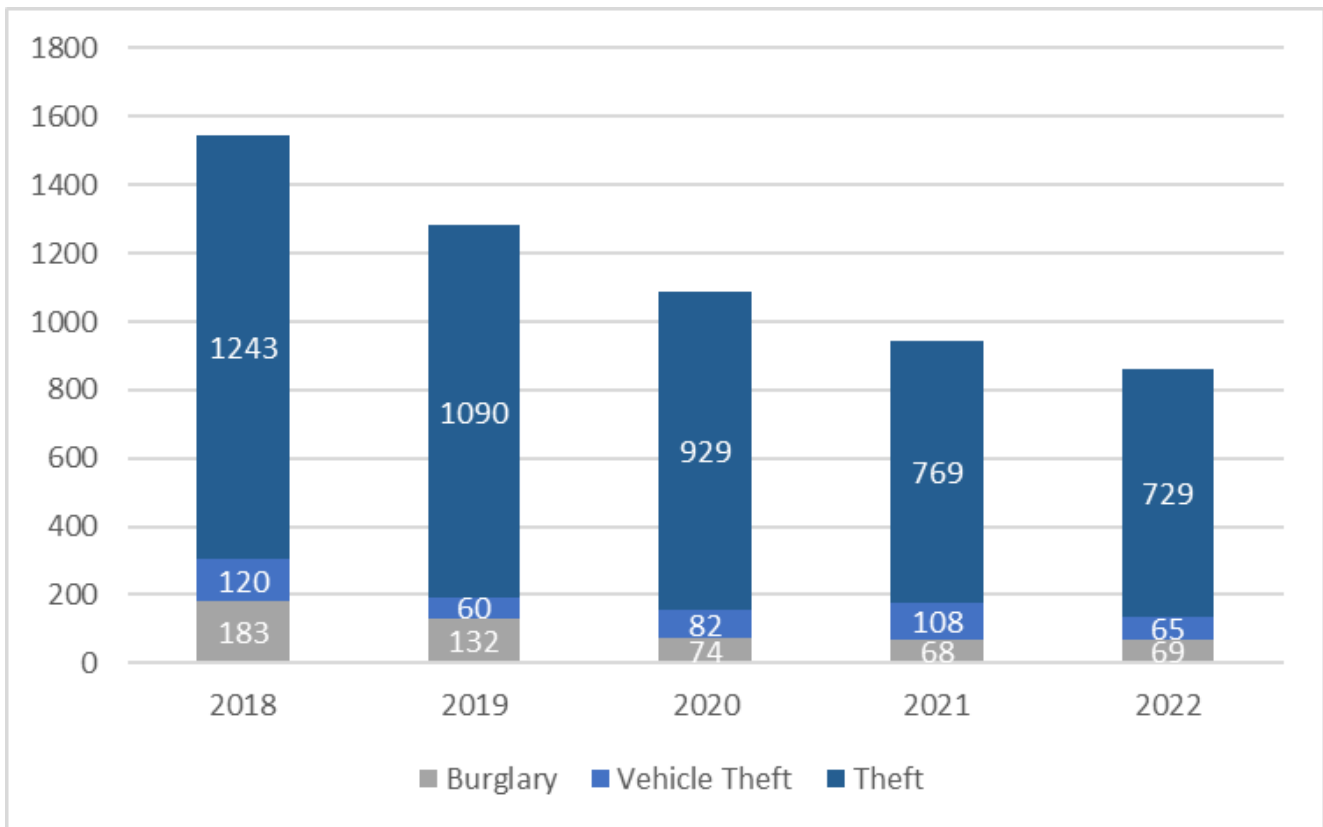
During our most recent hiring process in 2022, CPD began to utilize *policeapp.com*, a third party company that specializes in police recruiting.





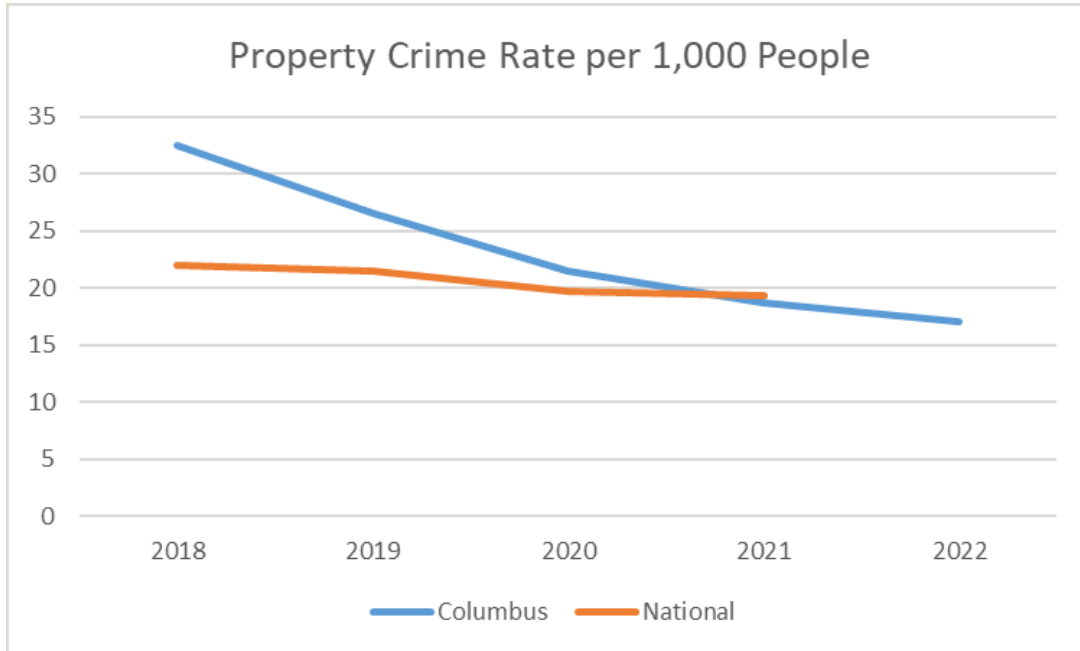
Crime Reduction Efforts

- In October, 2020 the FBI altered how data is reported by changing the reporting mechanism from the UCR system to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), as well as changing some definitions of the reported crimes and incidents. This change means that we will not be able to provide a comparable historical evaluation of crime data until next year. However, the NIBRS system will provide more detailed data in order to better determine crime patterns, and will allow for more timely law enforcement action based on the data.
- Violent Crime
 - Columbus is one of the safest communities in the State of Indiana. In 2022 we saw a 3% reduction in violent crime including a 45% decrease in armed robberies.
- Property Crime
 - Over the past five years, we have noted a 41% reduction in property crime.





By working in conjunction with the community, the property crime in Columbus continues to drop and is now below the national average. (National crime statistics for 2022 are not yet available)





- Interventions

- Intelligence Led Policing (ILP)
 - Since 2017, our property crime rate has continued to go down after fully implementing an intelligence led policing program. Property crime has dropped 41% since 2018. This innovative style of policing has had a direct result in our reduction of property crime and drug related offenses, and will continue to reduce crime in our community.
 - The intelligence Led Policing Unit includes three Columbus police officers, one Bartholomew County deputy and one civilian criminal intelligence analyst. This centralized unit in the department collects and stores all information, analyzes the information and produces actionable direction for our law enforcement activities.
- Education – With the majority of our thefts from vehicles being from unlocked vehicles in 2022, we routinely educate the public in several easy practices that every citizen can do to help us in our goal to reduce the number of thefts from vehicles that we have each year.
 - Immediately report suspicious activity;
 - Help us identify property if it is stolen by registering items with serial numbers and pictures on the free and secure inventory system that our department uses:
<https://reportit.leadsonline.com/>
- Partnerships – Key to our crime reduction efforts is maintaining and building partnerships throughout the community. Here is a brief overview of some of our partnerships, a few of which will be expanded on later in this report.
 - The Intelligence Led Policing unit (ILP)-This is our most recent partnership with the Bartholomew County Sheriff's office. This unit includes officers from Columbus Police Department, a deputy from the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Office and a civilian criminal intelligence analyst.
 - Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET) – This team is made up of officers from the Columbus Police Department, deputies from the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Office and a Bartholomew County Deputy Prosecutor. Their purpose is to unite local efforts to aggressively pursue drug dealers in our community, and has combined local investigative and prosecution efforts as it relates to drug crimes. This relationship has led to additional partnerships with other state and federal agencies to collectively attack the supply of drugs in our community. These additional partners include:
 - The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA);
 - The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI);
 - The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF);
 - The U.S. Marshalls;
 - The Department of Homeland Security; and
 - The U.S. Postal Service Inspectors

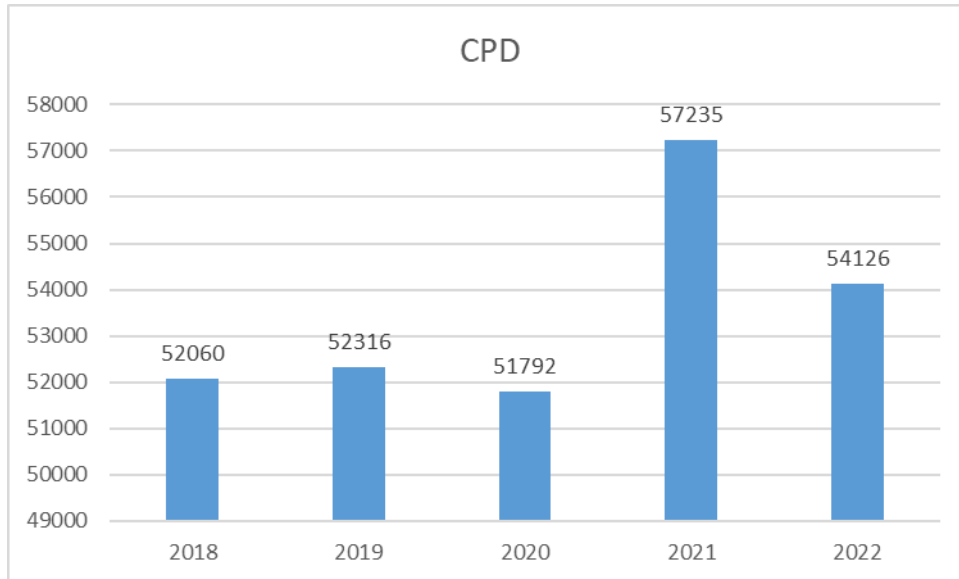


- Heroin Overdose Response Initiative – This is a partnership between the Columbus Police Department and Bartholomew County Sheriff’s Office to maximize interagency cooperation by establishing consistent investigation protocols and facilitating intelligence gathering and sharing between the agencies for heroin overdoses.
- School Resource Officers (SROs) – This is a partnership between the Columbus Police Department, Bartholomew County Sheriff’s Department and the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation to place police officers in our schools. This program currently has four CPD officers and one officer from the Bartholomew County Sheriff’s Department assigned.
- Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) – As much of law enforcement’s responsibility is to combat the drug supply, ASAP was designed to reduce drug demand. The police department is an active participant in ASAP’s progress and believes that this is a major component to crime reduction as well as producing many other collateral community benefits.
- Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) – This is a partnership with local law enforcement, judges, the prosecutor, probation department, community corrections, defense attorneys and treatment providers. It’s purpose is to revamp the criminal justice system to reduce the likelihood that a person who has committed a crime will reoffend. The results of this partnership have made our community a leader in the state and the country in several criminal justice change targets.
- Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) – This is a partnership with the state and all local stakeholders in the juvenile justice system with the purpose of changing delinquent youth behavior so that youth in the criminal justice system can be transformed to ultimately become productive citizens as adults.
- Adult Drug Court – The police department has designated two liaison officers that participate in the adult drug court, which is intended to rehabilitate low-level and high risk drug offenders.
- Veteran’s Court – the police department has designated a liaison officers that participate with this court, which helps rehabilitate veterans who have committed a crime.
- Safe Place – The police department partners with the Foundation for Youth, the Bartholomew County Youth Services Center, Columbus Fire Department and Bartholomew County Sheriff’s Office. This program provides youth a safe place to go to receive assistance when they are in a time of need.
- Neighborhood Watch – We meet regularly with established neighborhood watch groups and welcome opportunities to meet with and assist others in establishing new watch groups or join existing groups.



Uniform Division

When a person within the city requests law enforcement assistance for any reason, the Uniform Division is our first response. While these officers respond when citizens call for help (calls for service), they also proactively work hard to protect you and your property (officer-initiated activity). In 2022 our officers received 54,126 calls for service.





Contained within our Uniform Division are several specialty units – School Resource Officers, K-9 Officers and Bike Patrol Officers.

- School Resource Officers (SROs)
 - This partnership was noted earlier in this report. Since 2014, two School Resource Officers have been assigned full-time to the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation. The program currently has five officers. We have four officers from Columbus Police Department and one from the Bartholomew County Sheriff's assigned to work as a SRO. These officers provide safety within our schools, and multiply the opportunity for officers to build relationships with our youth. These officers spend a majority of their time engaging with students in a positive manner, while still maintaining a safe environment for students, school personnel and visitors using school facilities.





- K-9 Officers

- The Columbus Police Department has four K-9 units. All of our K-9s are multipurpose dogs that detect narcotics, as well as track and apprehend. Throughout the year all of our K-9s were involved in narcotic seizures, locating fleeing suspects and locating articles that were lost, stolen or used in the commission of a crime.



- Bike Patrol Officers

- The goal of the Bike Patrol is to find a balance between public relations and enforcement of laws. Using the bicycle is a great tool to interact with the community in a positive manner, but is also very effective in crime reduction. The Bike Patrol Unit is used in parades, high crime areas, routine patrols, bike rodeos and bike safety education.





Detective Division

- Our department utilizes a Detective Division to investigate crimes that cannot be resolved by the Uniform Division due to the time commitment of the investigation, complexity of the investigation or other qualifying circumstances.

- Every report submitted by the Uniform Division is reviewed to determine if it will be assigned to a detective for additional investigation. In 2022, CPD detectives were assigned 403 cases. Detectives are also called to the scenes of major crimes to coordinate on-scene investigations, and are well trained to handle a broad spectrum of cases such as:
 - Property crimes, such as theft, burglary, financial crimes, and arson.
 - Personal crimes, such as battery and robbery.
 - Sex crimes, such as rape, child molestation and voyeurism.
 - Death investigations, including homicide, suicide and accidental deaths.
 - Pharmaceutical diversion crimes, dealing with prescription fraud, doctor-shopping and related offenses.
 - Domestic violence crimes, such as battery, confinement and violation of protection orders.

- In addition to investigating crimes, we have established relationships throughout the community to provide a point of contact to key groups in the community to help deter crimes from happening and to have established partnerships that allow for more efficient investigations for crimes that do occur. We currently maintain the following relationships:
 - A retail theft liaison who partners with asset protection personnel from Columbus area retail merchants;
 - A fraud liaison who partners with representatives of financial institutions in Columbus;
 - A diversion crime liaison partners with local health care facility administrators; and
 - A domestic violence liaison who works directly with Turning Point.



Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET)

The Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team is a collaborative effort between the Columbus Police Department, Bartholomew County Sheriff's Office and the Bartholomew County Prosecutor's Office that primarily investigates crimes involving narcotics. In 2022 there was a reduction in criminal arrests compared to recent years, however, several of the unit's 195 investigations in the past year involved high profile cases including:

- 43-Dealing Methamphetamine
- 12-Dealing Narcotic Drug (Fentanyl)
- 5-Dealing Cocaine
- 1-Dealing in a Controlled Substance
- 1-Dealing in a Look-Alike
- 2-Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death
- 1-Dealing in Marijuana
- 50- Overdoses
- 21- Overdose Deaths
- 1-Serious Violent Felon in possession of firearm
- 3-Ghost Gun trafficking/manufacturing
- 55 -Search Warrants

In the past year, many cases involved investigations alongside federal law enforcement agencies. One of these investigations, named "Operation Small Town" involved three local residents who were arrested on several federal charges including conspiring to distribute methamphetamine and money laundering. During the investigation officers seized approximately 82 pounds of methamphetamine, approximately 1,750 fentanyl pills, approximately one kilogram of cocaine, approximately four pounds of marijuana and a large quantity of suspected THC gummies.

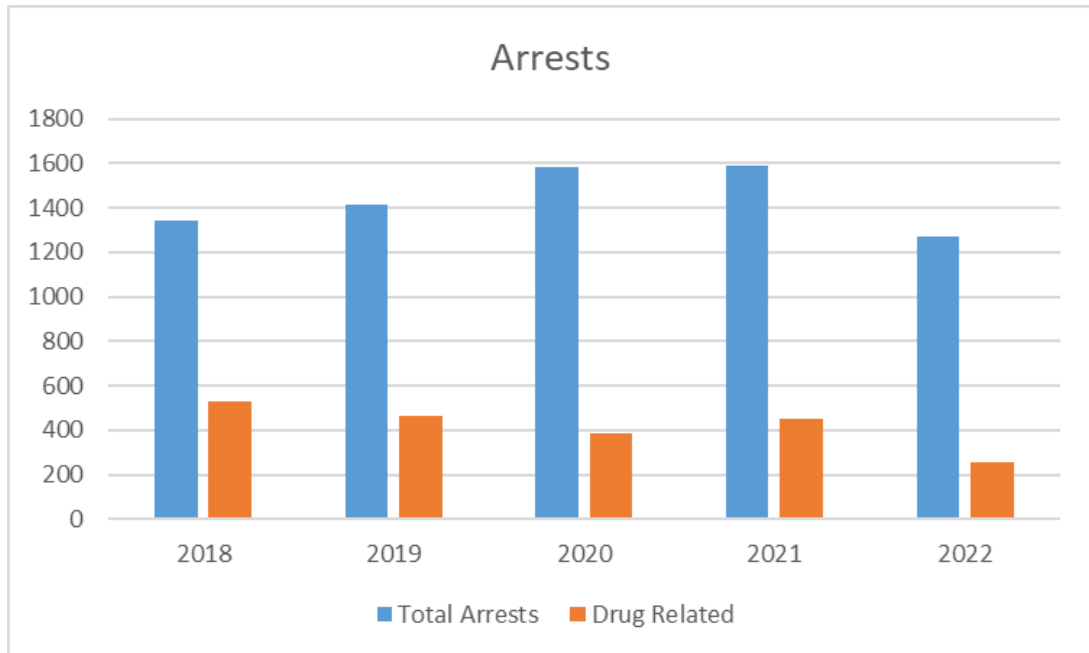
In addition to drug seizures, authorities have seized approximately \$9,000 in U.S. currency as well as nine firearms.





- Drug Crimes

- Supply & Demand – This basic concept is the easiest way to describe the drug problem in our community. While the police department constantly works to arrest drug dealers to thwart the supply of drugs, working with community partners to reduce or eliminate the demand is just as important. If we can reduce or eliminate the demand, this will collaterally reduce the drug supply. Conversely, if we do nothing to address the demand, the supply of drugs will continue to flow to try to meet the demand. This concept reinforces the reason why our community partnerships are vital to reducing crime.





Training Division

In 2022, Columbus police officers completed over 10,183 hours of training. This averages out to approximately 117 hours per officer which is well above Indiana's minimum requirement of 24 training hours. Some of the training topics covered by our officers included emergency vehicle operations, firearm training, physical tactics, de-escalation, hazmat, CPR, mental health, anti-bias, hate crime training, ethics, and weapons recertification.

With a reduction in COVID-19 cases, CPD's specialty units including SWAT, K-9, Hostage/Crisis Negotiators, and Bomb Unit were all able to return to normal training in 2022.

CPD also hosted several training courses in 2022 and were able to include other law enforcement agencies. Some of the topics included Opioid Overdose Death Investigations, Active Shooter and Terrorism Readiness Course, Crisis Intervention Team, and Child Abduction Response Team Training.





Police & Community Relations

- Social Media – Regular and efficient communication is vital to maintaining a strong partnership with our community. We regularly communicate through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Our Facebook page has over 40,000 followers which allows us to share police news and information with a large number of people.
 - Website – Please visit us on our website, where you will find information on all our upcoming events: <http://www.columbus.in.gov/police/>.



- Adult Programs
 - Firearms Safety Class
 - We host full day firearms training courses that feature time in the classroom as well as on our firing range with our firearms instructors.





- Neighborhood Watch Groups – These partnerships were noted earlier in this report on page 15.



- Public Safety Academy

- This is our most comprehensive program that requires a significant time commitment from the participants. This 11 week program educates adults on every aspect of public safety by giving them an inside look at the job of a police officer. In the course, we provide such an in depth look at our operations, participants must pass a background check.





- Self-Defense Class
 - Our defensive tactics instructors and other officers instruct women's self-defense classes each year.



- Youth Programs

- Cadet Program
 - The cadet program is designed for high-school age youth, who are mentored by and provided law enforcement training from our officers. With the help of several community partners, we have incorporated this program into our long-term recruitment plan, and seek to use this recruitment plan to increase the diversity on our department.
- D.A.R.E.
 - We have nine D.A.R.E. officers that teach this popular anti-drug program to sixth graders at eight elementary schools in Columbus. This program not only teaches youth the negative effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, but also provides an opportunity for our officers to build a positive relationship with them. We are proud to have taught this program in our local schools for 30 years.





- Homework with an Officer
 - Our homework with an officer program occurs after school every Monday and Tuesday while school is in session. During each session officers work with the youth on their homework and spend some time doing fun activities.
- Hooked on Fishing
 - Officers spent the day fishing with youth in our community. Thanks to our generous sponsors this event is held at no charge to the participants.



- Police & Fire Youth Academy
 - This program is similar to the adult Public Safety Academy, except it is designed for youth. During this program the children receive a small taste of what it would be like to attend a police academy and learn about different aspects of law enforcement. The academies provide opportunities to engage local youth from ages 6-12.





- Precision Driving Course

- Our department offers this course to give young drivers hands-on experience on a closed track with our police driving instructors. These teens are instructed in critical accident avoidance areas such as evasive maneuvers, threshold braking, skid control, weaving, backing, and off-road recovery.



- S.A.F.E. (Situational, Awareness For Everyday) Course

- Our officers teach this crime-victim prevention program to female high school seniors throughout the county. The program includes both classroom education as well as hands-on self-defense instruction. This nationally recognized program has a dual purpose:
 - To prevent crimes of sexual violence in our communities through programs of education and training; and
 - To educate women about realistic options that will help them avoid, escape and survive assaults if they do occur.
 - Course was offered to male students for the first time in 2019.





- School Visits
 - We enjoy engaging our youth and ensuring they have positive interactions with law enforcement. Visiting schools is another way this is accomplished.



- Scouts in Government Days
 - These days give us an opportunity to have students shadow us for a day to see what it's like to be a police officer.
- Shop with a Cop
 - In preparation for Christmas, we partner with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and many other law enforcement agencies to provide necessities and toys to children in need. Officers volunteer their time during this event.





- Other Opportunities for Youth and Adults

- Coffee with a Cop

- Coffee with a Cop program, which provides opportunities for local residents to meet with Columbus police officers in an informal setting, and gives us the opportunity to have face-to-face interaction with community members so that we can better understand and address their public safety needs. Mayor Lienhoop often uses this opportunity to further engage community members.



- College Internships

- We offer internship programs to college students, and can adjust the program to accommodate their academic requirements.

- Community Events

- Throughout the year, we are at a variety of community events, including our Public Safety Day, where any member of the public can see and touch much of the equipment that we utilize in our daily activities and in our department specialties such as the Bomb Team, SWAT, Dive Team, Crisis Negotiators, etc. These events provide an excellent opportunity for members of the public to interact with our officers.





- Department Tours
 - We have guided dozens of tours within the police department and continue to do so upon request.

- Guest Speaking
 - As a service to our community, our officers are available to speak at most engagements. Some of the popular topics requested include active threats, domestic violence, drug trends, K-9 demonstrations and prescription drug diversion.





Emergency Preparedness

- The Columbus Police Department has numerous specialty units that are prepared to respond to any type of event or disaster that may affect the Columbus area. The officers that serve on these specialties do so in addition to their regular assigned duties. The following are some of the specialty services we provide:
 - Accident Reconstruction Unit
 - The Accident Reconstruction Unit is called on to investigate and properly document crashes that involve serious bodily injury or death. Accident reconstruction involves analyzing a large amount of data from a crash scene. Although every police officer investigates motor vehicle crashes, these investigators specialize in the gathering of all available data to best determine what occurred before, during and after the crash.
 - Bomb Technicians
 - The Columbus Police Department Hazardous Devices Unit, or bomb squad members, are certified through the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) as bomb technicians. The certified bomb technicians are trained to identify and neutralize explosive devices.
 - Civil Unrest Response Team (CURT)
 - In 2017 this emergency response team was trained and equipped to work together to respond to civil unrest incidents. The CURT team is comprised of Columbus police Department officers and Bartholomew County sheriff deputies.
 - Crime Scene Investigators (CSI)
 - Our crime scene investigators are trained in the collection and processing of delicate evidence found at major crime scenes. The investigators are trained in a wide range of forensic disciplines such as DNA, fingerprints, bloodstain pattern analysis, ballistics, photography, etc. These investigators are typically called to scenes where a person has suffered significant bodily injury or death.
 - Crisis Negotiation Team
 - The Crisis Negotiation Team members possess the unique ability to communicate with persons under intense and often unpredictable conditions. The team is activated in conjunction with our SWAT team and assists with the same types of high-risk situations. This unit takes pride in defusing critical situations while focusing on the overall mission of peaceful crisis resolution.
 - Dive Team
 - The Dive Team is prepared for emergency deployment in water rescue situations where victims have dropped below the surface of water. In addition, they are utilized to recover evidence submerged in local lakes and rivers.



- Firearms Training Simulator (FATS)
 - This training equipment is available 24/7 for officers to further refine their verbal de-escalation skills and their split second use of force decision making.

- Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)
 - The SWAT team is prepared to handle highly volatile situations including high-risk search warrants, armed suicidal persons, barricaded persons, hostage situations and many other high-risk scenarios. The SWAT team is comprised of Columbus Police Department officers and Bartholomew County Sheriff deputies who train together regularly.





Closing

With the progressive changes we have made within our department coupled with the many partnerships we have established throughout the community, the complex crime problems we have identified are trending in the right direction – downward. Although we are seeing successes, we continually strive to improve and be more efficient in order to provide the citizens and visitors of this community the best public safety service and protections.

Respectfully,

Michael D. Richardson,
Chief of Police





2022 “A Year In Review”

The Columbus Police Department would like to pay tribute to CPD Records Department Supervisor and long-time City employee Lisa Williams who passed away in February.



The Columbus Police Department celebrated 30 years of the D.A.R.E. program in our community schools this year.





CPD welcomed several new officers to our department in 2022 including Drew Yeley, Chelsie Ragsdale, and Daniel Craig.



We would like to take a moment and thank everyone who took the time to drop off food and snacks for our officers during the past year.





Over 35% of CPD officers are military veterans. In 2022, these officers received service pins to wear on their uniforms signifying their service to our country.



Approximately 25 people completed this year's Columbus Public Safety Academy. This course is designed to give participants a behind the scenes look at law enforcement.





This past year we hosted several different groups for police department tours which are offered at no charge to the community.



13 CPD officers completed a week long crisis intervention training course which provided the officers with additional training on assisting people with mental health emergencies. 24 CPD officers have now completed this course.





CPD officers, including Chief Michael Richardson, participated in a community forum on protecting places of worship.



Columbus police officers attended the funeral of Richmond PD Officer Seara Burton who was killed in the line of duty.





The City of Columbus donated a decommissioned patrol car to the Perry Co. Kentucky Sheriff's Office after they had a vehicle damaged in a historic flood.





The Columbus Police Department along with Dorel Juvenile Group hosted two car safety seat checks last year at no charge to the community.



CPD officers provided security at a number of community events including the Ethnic Expo.





CPD officers trained alongside area law enforcement agencies during active shooter scenarios over the course of the year.

